

# AJ CONGRESS OPENS 1ST JEWISH LIBRARY

The spacious second-floor library of a fine old mansion on East 34th Street that is the national headquarters of the American Jewish Congress became the first reading room in New York City devoted to Jewish literature, reference books, scholarly works and other periodicals.

At ceremonies in Stephen Wise Congress House, 15 East 84th Street, the Charles and Bertie G. Schwartz Reading Room -- inspired, planned, paid for, stocked and serviced by Mrs. Schwartz, a Jewish book authority -- was dedicated by Mrs. Charles Snitow of Scarsdale, president of the American Jewish Congress National Women's Division.

When complete, the reading room will contain more than 1,000 titles of Jewish interest,

ranging from contemporary works by Jewish novelists to volumes of scholarship through the ages. It will be open to the public three days a week for approximately five hours each day, with Mrs. Schwartz herself and several assistants serving as volunteer librarians.

The ceremonies were held as part of the Congress Women's Division annual Jewish Book Fair, which -- like Jewish Book Month itself -- was originated by Mrs. Schwartz. Mrs. Schwartz, the widow of a distinguished theatrical attorney and a lawyer herself, lives in Manhattan when she is not travelling to lecture on the literature of the Jewish people to audiences as diverse as Jewish clubwomen and Catholic high school students.

The new reading room -- culmination of a project announced by Mrs. Schwartz last spring when she received the Women's Division Louise Waterman Wise Award -- will not be a lending library, according to Julius Schatz, director

of the American Jewish Congress Commission on Jewish Affairs, who -- with Women's Division director Esther Kolatch -- is administering the project.

But it will have comfortable chairs, tables and lighting, full library services and eventually even audio-visual materials. And visitors who find a book they want to own may order a copy through the Congress.

Mrs. Schwartz, vice chairman of the Jewish Book Council, is associate editor of "Judaica News," the distinguished quarterly on Jewish publications that is published by Bookazine, the largest distributor of books and magazines in the U.S. She is national chairman of the Bookshop, Library and Publications program of the Women's League of the United Synagogue and has served as vice chairman of the American Mothers' Committee and co-chairman of the Torah Fund of the Jewish Theological Seminary. She is a former vice president and membership chairman of the New York City Hadassah Chapter.

NEW YORK (WNS)--The annual conference of the UJA heard reports that 50,000 immigrants came to Israel in 1970 and another 50,000 were expected in 1971. Because more than 30 per cent of Israel's gross national product goes toward defense needs, American Jews were urged to intensify their support of the social and educational programs vital to the people of Israel.

NEW YORK (WNS)--The present menace to Jewish survival all over the world does not stem from classic anti-Semitism but from the "revolutionary character of our century," Dr. Naham Goldman, President of the World Jewish Congress told a banquet meeting of the trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

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WASHINGTON (WNS)-- A State Department spokesman said the Administration has an "open mind" on the possibility of a joint Soviet-American peace keeping force in the Middle East.

WASHINGTON (WNS)--The Senate, by a 72-22 vote, approved President Nixon's \$1.035 billion supplementary foreign military aid bill. This clears the way for an appropriation measure for the \$500 million in military aid to Israel which had been authorized earlier.

WASHINGTON (WNS)--The State Department will decide soon on Leonid Rigerman's citizenship, a spokesman said here. It is felt that a "reasonably good chance" exists that Rigerman and his 60-year-old Brooklyn born mother would be granted citizenship.

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